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undertaking only to indicate and suggest in a few words, what may imperfectly represent the feeling of this Association—

Resolved, that the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered to the officers of Harvard University, and to the local committee, for courtesies and accommodations extended; to the President and Fellows for the hospitality of the table; to such hotels and railroad companies as have granted us special privileges; to all who, in any way, have done us good or wished us well: and further, that it is with sincere regret that those of us who have come from abroad to this favored centre of learning and culture take leave of fair Harvard and of glorious old Boston, with all its dialects (Laughter), until we shall have the pleasure and privilege to come again. I move sir, the adoption of those resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

President LOWELL :—The next business is to listen to a paper on

9. "The Influence of the Weakness of Accent-Stress on Phonetic Change in French," by Dr. PHILIPPE B. MARCOU, of the University of Michigan.

Dr. MARCOU read his paper and immediately after this Dr. JAMES W. BRIGHT (Johns Hopkins Univ.), put the following motion:

Mr. President, because of the lateness of the hour and the somewhat close relationship between the paper that has just been read and that which is to follow, I beg to be permitted to offer the motion that the discussion of this paper be combined with the discussion of the paper which follows.

The motion was carried

Prof. JOHN E. MATZKE, of Bowdoin College, next read a paper on

10. "Dialect Peculiarities in the development of *l mouillé* in Old French."

Professor E. S. SHELDON :—Mr. President, the paper which was read by Dr. MARCOU is one which calls, in general phonetic principles, for the explanation of linguistic changes. A difficulty exists with such explanations that we sometimes hardly know which one of several possibilities to choose. The hypothesis (I believe it was presented only as such), seems to me a sufficiently good one to explain the phenomena that we actually find, if it be granted that in the modern pronunciation the accent-stress is weaker in the French than it is in the Spanish, and weaker in the Spanish than it is in the Italian. But it seems to me there are other possibilities which might explain as well the phenomena that we find. The mere fact of coincidences will not enable us to say that of two phenomena which we observe, the one is the cause of the other. It is by no means certain that the older relations in stress-accent among these three languages were the same

that they are now ; and even for Old French, I think it is open to considerable doubt whether the condition of things was the same as in the modern language. I think it is, at least, possible that in the Old French there was a stronger stress-accent than that which exists in the modern French. Of course, this is merely opposing one possibility to another, but that is all I wish to do. In the absence of more evidence, it seems to me that we must take into consideration other possibilities as well as that which has been presented to us, satisfactory as that alone might be if no other were to be found. I think there are still others, however, besides the doubt as to stress-accent in Old French. We are told, and of course it is true, that the greater amount of breath pressure on the accented syllable may leave, after that has been pronounced, a sufficient amount of breath to pronounce another syllable, another vowel, or even more than one vowel, in addition. That is a perfectly correct statement ; but that additional force need not be spent in pronouncing the vowel, as we ordinarily understand it. Instead of that, the breath may simply be allowed to escape unvoiced. Suppose we have a Vulgar Latin word VALLE, pronounced about like the English word *valley* ; we know, of course, that the resulting French word would be spelled *val*, but we should not be obliged to assume that it had lost the final syllable because the stress-accent was weak, for we can also assume that a pronunciation of VALLE with a very strong accent on the penult might have gone through a different stage to reach that final result. It might be that the stages would have been, for example, first, VALLE ; second, VALL(E), with the second syllable only whispered or only breathed, and thus hardly audible and fully half-way toward loss. I submit that this intermediate stage is equally possible ; and the next result might be *val* or *vall*, with the total loss of that almost inaudible second syllable. But I will not take up your time with further consideration of possibilities. It seems a rather barren subject, and its only use, I think, is to show that there are many possibilities for the explanation of linguistic changes which we do not at first suspect.

Prof. VAN DAELL :—Mr. President, may I say a few words, only a very few ? For my part I have listened with a great deal of interest to the paper by Dr. MATZKE, but I confess I should have felt much more confidence if some of the examples of a little book by PAUL PASSY had not been adopted as a basis for a part of the observations. That book seems to me so strikingly inaccurate in observations on modern French pronunciation that it ought not to be considered as a safe basis for scientific investigation. For instance, PAUL PASSY, in contradiction to every one of the books of any authority in France, indicates the vowel in *les*, *ces*, as *lé*, *cé* (with an acute accent). Now this is opposed not only to every other authority, to every observer of French birth not only up to a certain time ago, but even to the present day. For instance, a grammar recently published under commission by the city of Paris by Mr. DA COSTA, flatly contradicts PAUL PASSY on the point just cited, and I think that many other points are just as

incorrect. PAUL PASSY being so strikingly and evidently mistaken in this matter, I confess my confidence in his observations on more delicate points of pronunciation is diminished, and I would like to see really scientific observation based on some other and better book.

Dr. MATZKE:—The book from which I especially quoted was BEYER's whose account had the same results as those given by PAUL PASSY; after he had written and printed his conclusions, he ran across PASSY's statement and then reprinted that; and as I thought a Frenchman's conclusions would be better than a German's on that matter, I cited PASSY; but I might equally well have cited the German.

Prof. VAN DAELL:—I didn't touch, I think, upon the main point of Dr. MATZKE's theory but simply to call attention to mistakes in PAUL PASSY's book which seems to be quite popular; and I wanted to call attention to that point more than to Dr. MATZKE's discussion. This is a subject which I have not especially studied. I should be glad to do so.

Prof. GRANDGENT:—I would simply call Dr. VAN DAELL's attention to the fact that PAUL PASSY himself has changed his statement with regard to the vowel mentioned, and in his article in *Phonetische Studien*, i, 1, he places it as intermediate between the close and open sounds. In corroboration of Professor SHELDON's remarks on Dr. MARCOU's paper, it may be worth while to mention the fact that I have heard GASTON PARIS explain the loss of unaccented syllables in French through the force of tonic stress in the older language, ascribing their fall to what he called the "tyranny of the Old French accent," and thus explaining the phenomenon on a basis exactly opposed to that taken by Dr. MARCOU.

Prof. COHN:—I was glad to hear Prof. SHELDON make the statement, in referring to Dr. MARCOU's paper, touching the great importance of the stress-accent in Old French; and I think that if we examine carefully even Modern French from the standpoint of groups of words in the sentence (these sharply defined word-groups being one of the striking peculiarities of utterance in the French language), we may find the same thing in the present French speech. I call attention to the singularly strong treatment given by Old French to monosyllables, used by themselves or in the sentence; and also to the value of assonance in Old French poetry as showing the importance of the great stress of accent. I want also to say one word in reference to Dr. MATZKE's paper. I see that Dr. MARCOU has made great use of the "mielz," and this is merely the question that I wanted to ask. Did it not occur to him that in this special word,—because we must always remember that there are individual instances which do not fall under the rule,—perhaps the *z* represented *is* or *ds* in such a word, and might have developed in *mielz* by the influence of *mieldre* which was so frequent and natural a form, the *d* in *mieldre* coming from the juxtaposition of *l* and *r*?

Dr. MATZKE :—If I take the correct point of view in this problem, the *d* in *mieldre* is to be explained in exactly the same way as the *z* in *mielz*; that is, one does not derive from the other, but the *d* in *mieldre* is just as much an epenthetical consonant developed between *l* and *r* as the *t* in *mielz* is between *l* and *s*, because *z*, according to CHABANEAU, till the end of the twelfth century in French, denotes *ts* and nothing else. I wish to add one word, Mr. President, in regard to Dr. MARCOU's paper. Some years ago I was especially interested in looking up the question of accent in Modern French, and I then found a great deal of uncertainty existing in regard to it. I found as many as four different theories regarding the accent. There was one that the accent rested on the last, and another that the accent rested upon the first fully pronounced syllable of the word. According to a third theory, there is no tonic accent at all; all the syllables of the word bear the same degree of stress, and a fourth theory is, that the last two syllables are equally accented, with a pause before the last syllable.

President LOWELL :—I think that as there are two papers to follow, it would be well, perhaps, for the discussion to end here, and you will now listen to a paper on

II. "Reading in Modern Language Study," by Professor EDWARD S. JOYNES, of the University of South Carolina.

After this communication was presented, the following motion was made by

Prof. CALVIN THOMAS :—I dare say nearly every member of the Association has got something to say in regard to this subject; but on account of the lateness of the hour, I make the same motion that Dr. BRIGHT made concerning the previous discussion. I move that the discussion of this paper which has just been read be postponed until after the reading of the next paper, which is germane to it in subject matter.

Discussion on Prof. JOYNES' paper having been postponed, Prof. CHARLES E. FAY, of Tufts College, addressed the Association on

12. "Requirements in German and French for Admission to College."

The presence of the proposed scheme* of modern language requirements in printed form in the hands of the members of the Association which is invited to discuss it, renders my task in opening the discussion a very simple one. It will be merely to say something concerning the movement from which the scheme is an outgrowth, with a few added words in explanation of certain of its detail.

*Cf. Appendix, iii, at the end of these *Proceedings*.